

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Chiyoza "Joe" Shiramizu

Chiyoza "Joe" Shiramizu was born December 19, 1916 in Hanamā'ulu, Kaua'i. He was educated at Hanamā'ulu School and Kaua'i High School, where he graduated in 1933.

Shiramizu worked as a timekeeper in the fields for the Līhu'e Plantation Company beginning in 1933. In 1952, he became the editor of the *Līhu'e Plantation News*. His long tenure at the plantation lasted until 1973, when he retired from his position in personnel management and industrial relations publications.

Shiramizu was elected as a Republican to the Kaua'i County Board of Supervisors in 1958. He served five terms on the board, and served on the Kaua'i County Council from 1969 to 1972.

Tape Nos. 17-106-1-91 and 17-107-1-91

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Chiyoza "Joe" Shiramizu (CS)

May 15, 1991

Līhu'e, Kaua'i

BY: Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto (MK) and Daniel W. Tuttle, Jr. (DT)

Joy Chong: The following is an interview with Chiyoza "Joe" Shiramizu, and the interviewers were Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto and Dan Tuttle. The location of the interview took place at Kaua'i Community College on May 15, 1991. This is videotape number one.

MK: Okay, this is an interview with Mr. Chiyoza "Joe" Shiramizu, in Puhi, Kaua'i, on May 15, 1991. The interviewers are Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto and Dan Tuttle. And what we're gonna do is that we're gonna videotape interview you, then we'll transcribe the interview, send you the transcripts so that you can look at it and make whatever changes you feel are necessary, and only after you've approved the transcript will the transcript and videotape be made available to the public.

CS: I see, I see.

MK: Is that okay with you?

CS: Sounds good to me.

MK: Okay, okay. So, I guess we'll start off with the easy question. When and where were you born?

CS: Well, I was born in Hanamā'ulu, that's a couple of miles south of Puhi. And my birth date is December the 19th, 1916. That's a long way back.

MK: And if you can please tell us something about your family background.

CS: Well, we are plain, old plantation folks. My dad and my mom [Shigetaro and Yukuyo Shiramizu] were natives of Fukuoka-ken in Japan. And they arrived here, we believe, just prior to the turn of the century. And they had been here one year, settling in Hanamā'ulu. And they got married here. And that was the beginning of our siblings, we had four boys and three girls. At the present time, I'm one of only two living descendants. My eldest sister is still living, and I of course. But we all grew up and born in the same house at Hanamā'ulu, the old plantation camp. And my background is obviously agricultural plantation. Course we had opportunities to change careers or locate somewhere else, but by and large, I think we kind of get stuck on the simple plantation life. It can be enjoyable.

MK: And in Hanamā'ulu, what camp did you live in?

CS: Well, it was called Mill Camp, and it was just a stone's throw from the factory. And we had a two-bedroom house, and we all cramped in there sometimes—the span of children living with the family, different. I'm the youngest and the oldest is now ninety-one. So, there's sixteen, seventeen years apart, so. When I was born, maybe several of the family members were not living in the original parental home.

MK: And you know, you mentioned that you were in Mill Camp, was your father a mill employee, then?

CS: No, no, my dad always worked in the field, and he was known as a *hui* contractor. You know, he accompanied the fellow workers, they contracted the fields. After harvesting, the factory output of the sugarcane juices and the tonnage that they diffused, they used to have bonuses, for taking special care of the cane crop and doing all the things necessary to grow the cane in eighteen months. And so, I think he prospered fairly well, because of that contract basis that you could make additional money, over and above your one-dollar-a-day wages that they earned.

MK: And you know, at that community that you live in, how would you describe the social situation in Mill Camp at Hanamā'ulu Plantation?

CS: Oh gee that's---(chuckles) that covers a lot of territory, but. . . . Originally, I understand, recreation was very, very much minimum. And I might hazard to say, almost primitive. 'Cause they lack the equipment. For instance, they tried to get sumo in the young—most of the Japanese males were single men, and they needed that type of recreation. And the women were very few and far between. Most of the women, in fact all of the women, were married. So, there was no real social need, you know, for man-woman situation. But in the area of recreation in sports and maybe, of course, the churches come along and they would take up part of your spare time, after work. But mainly, sports, like baseball, Japan never knew baseball. But here on this island, baseball, Japanese-organized baseball started in 1927, you see. But now, if I go back to my, the days of my youth, 1916, we didn't have baseball as such, hardball. We used to use little balls of string. Every time we get a piece of string from home, or the stores, we started to make a ball, and use it. Sometimes we wax it in candle, and we use baseball bats out of any kind of lumber we could get. But that's how hard it was. And then when organized baseball finally hit the island, then we could at least buy gloves, and shoes, and wooden bats, and the regular hardball. But recreation was something that really lacked for the old-timers, the *issei*. The *kanyaku imin* we call it, those people who immigrated from Japan in 1885, the first shipload of contractors, sugarcane contract workers. King Kalākaua, by the way, was responsible for that, and if you read King Kalākaua's history, you know, aside from his many failings, he had a few good points. Like education, and then. . . . Did you know that he actually tried to arrange the marriage of Princess Ka'iulani to a Japan prince? I don't know if you know the story, but it's in Hawaiian history. He's one of my favorite Hawaiian characters from history, Kalākaua, but those days when the Japanese problems became a concern for the sugar planters and the government.

MK: You know, in the Hanamā'ulu community that you lived in, was it a mixed community?

CS: Oh yes, uh huh. Oh, in the beginning it was largely, excuse me, Hawaiians, you know

natives. But you know, they failed as a group to contribute to the sugar industry. And this is the reason why the Portuguese were immigrated and the Chinese, Japanese, and the Filipinos were the last group. So, in our community Japanese constituted the largest ethnic group and the Filipinos were second, very few Koreans and Chinese, and the Portuguese, they comprised a good portion but not as large as the Filipinos and the Japanese.

MK: And then, when it came to who held influence or power in your Hanamā'ulu, who did you see as having that sort of influence?

CS: Well, there was one Portuguese who could be called the leader of the community, a fellow named Antone Nobriga. He was the [Hanamā'ulu] Store manager, as it turned out. He came from humble beginnings, just like the rest of us. But he succeeded and---at least finishing the grammar school. Those days if you could finish elementary school, you were way ahead. And going to high school was a, oh, was an achievement, was a very proud family achievement. But Antone Nobriga, well, in his, I might call it very generous. . . . I'm searching for the word, and I can't get it. But he's very generous and he's very concerned about the welfare of all the plantation employees. See, those days they extended credit, we call it charge nowadays. They extended credit, but the plantations would deduct the store charges, that would be the number one deduction, even before taxes. I mean, that's what we offered, see, but perhaps that's not true altogether. But the plantations were absolutely safe. They run the company store. So, they sold you the goods and produce and the products, and then for payment they took it right out of your paycheck. So, many an employee went without monies on paydays. And paydays meant cash, they paid you in cash. And your envelope might have been zero, and maybe still owing from the previous months. So, it was a safe operation for the plantations to operate the store, the general store of the area.

MK: And so, Mr. Nobriga was very influential in your community.

CS: Yes, yes he was, yes. They all looked to him for leadership. And there were a few Japanese helping him. But anything of any consequence, I think Mr. Nobriga, to me, he was the big influence.

MK: How about your parents, were they involved in any . . .

CS: Oh, yes, my dad, I don't know, I always tell friends that's the reason why my family is poor. 'Cause he gave it all away, this guy, like he promoting sumoing. It takes extra time and money and traveling around the island. He used to have a special fondness for that. He was a generous fellow. But my mother always used to complain that, you know, he gives too much, and if he started with the family first, then we'd be ahead probably. But it's the other way around.

DT: Maybe your mother was the practical member of the family, then. She had to think in practical terms and. . . .

CS: Well, you know, Mr. Tuttle . . .

DT: Dan.

CS: Dan. The Japanese women of those days, they're subservient to the old samurai custom. And

if you're familiar with the old-time Japanese, oh, they were *taishōs*, you know. Anything they said, goes. You couldn't argue. I don't see how you can contribute to the philosophy of the family activities or purposes.

DT: They found ways around it.

CS: They found ways around it. But I used to tell the story, one of the most important and also funniest incidences in almost every Japanese family, where there was a husband and a wife involved. . . . Payday, the night of payday when monies must be exchanged now, papa goes out and collects his pay. He comes home with an envelope to his wife. And generally, mama would say, oh, I need x number of dollars for my groceries and my sewing machine and whatever. And the balance papa would keep. But in between those two declarations of money needs, you can bet mama would save some, to send to Japan, to her family. Papa would also---we call it *cockroach*, don't we in Hawai'i? So, papa would take some without mama's knowledge and he'd send to his own family, you see. So there was this constant contradiction or comeback, yeah.

DT: And there'd be always something a little special, one child would need something, and another child would need something else. And normally, the mother would see to it that that *cockroach* would cover that need. Right?

(Laughter)

CS: Oh yes, that's right.

DT: [Tape inaudible] some festival. What I'm really leading up to is, you mentioned here in passing that having a high school education, back in your period of time, was somewhat unusual.

CS: Oh yes.

DT: You obtained a high school diploma when you were seventeen, I believe, and how . . .

CS: Yes, sixteen.

DT: Sixteen. How many members of your family went to high school and graduated?

CS: Just the three boys.

DT: The three boys.

CS: There was no hope for girls [to go to high school]. Only very rarely. You were either very rich, or very intelligent. Especially the talented. Otherwise, ladies had no chance, young girls had no chance. In fact, many of them left school before the eighth grade to help with the family finances. You gotta remember that, one dollar a day went pretty far those days. But the same needs occurred in that time—clothing, shoes, of course no bowling and no TV, no dates. But still then, you had your expenses to contend with.

DT: That certainly was regrettable but true, no question about that.

CS: And then high school . . .

DT: Among the family with three boys, all three graduated from high school. So, that was unusual, then. So, who was pushing the education idea, your mother, your father?

CS: I think it was my mother.

DT: Okay, all right, that's what I meant about mothers having their ways.

(Laughter)

CS: Having their way, oh yeah.

DT: They got things accomplished, you see. So, it was the mother who sent you—study hard, work hard, it will pay off. You will get ahead; you will have a better life.

CS: I don't mind confiding in you, Dan, mother's influence, but my mother had a . . . The youngest brother in the family, in Fukuoka, [Japan] entered theology school. He went out for the Jōdo sect to become a minister. And he was successful. He accomplished all the requirements and began his ministry. And then he died, very young. It was a very sad, sad note for my mother. And I think ever since then, she looked on me, as the last child, to become a Buddhist minister, hopefully. And she kind of tilted my whole program towards seriousness and. . . .

DT: So she was in there hoping, I guess . . .

CS: She wouldn't let me stay out too long after dark. She'd make sure I'd hit the books and everything. So . . .

DT: You did develop an intense interest in education?

CS: Oh yes, oh yes.

MK: And how did your family afford to send these three boys to school?

CS: Well, the middle one went to McKinley High [School]. And so I felt that this might be a family tradition that the boys are all sent to Honolulu for their high school education. 'Cause big brother, Harry, he also went to—he graduated from McKinley High. So, when my turn came, my family kept me at home. So, it was partly finances and partly, I think, my mother who couldn't stay without me. She just, what do you call it, they cannot let go, you know. I think that was it. But anyway, I was stuck. So I did the family farm chores, went through all that operation of picking up leftover foods.

DT: So the others sort of paved the way. Now, we're talking earlier and we depart just a little bit because, as you know, I was intrigued by having known your older brother. He paved the way. He went directly, apparently, to University of Hawai'i from McKinley. Is that right?

CS: Oh, no, Dan, he had a period, I'd say two, three years, at least. He went to California. Now, he's a young man out of McKinley High, he went to California, very independent, full of guts

and hopes. And he worked as a transient farm worker and he worked at some hotel at Hale'iwa, O'ahu, later on. He did all these things all by himself, no parental guidance. Well, he's ninety-eight miles away. Did that all by himself, and supported himself through the University of Hawai'i. I don't think my family could contribute too much.

DT: He was really on his own from the time he went to McKinley?

CS: Oh yes, very independent.

DT: Apparently, he liked to write a lot too, didn't he?

CS: I guess so, yeah, yeah.

DT: I see he spent his life in or around newspapers.

CS: I used to kid him---I talk long and he writes long. So, we make a good pair.

(Laughter)

DT: For you, I think you had to, later on we'll probably get to this, you had your own fling at writing, I think, yourself.

CS: Some.

DT: So you enjoyed that. But while we're on education, you didn't get to go school any further after Kaua'i High [School], right?

CS: Oh yes, yeah.

DT: After a lapse of, we won't count up the years, you came to this community college. Right?

CS: Yes.

DT: And got an associate degree about, what, five years ago?

CS: Yeah, 1986.

DT: So, that interest in education really stuck with you for many years, didn't it?

CS: Oh yes, it took me five years to make my sixty hours. Of course, you're gonna ask me, how come? Well, it wasn't because I found it very difficult to keep up with the young people. It's just that after my several open-heart by-pass surgeries, my health habits, you know . . .

DT: Health problems, that's right.

CS: So, I couldn't take more than four hours a day. So, I staggered it. Some semesters I had two, some three, some four. So, finally took five full years. But I enjoyed it. And if I was in good health, or for sure I would run away from home or something. Of course, at that time, run away from the wife (laughs). Have the wife support me, too.

DT: Even at seventy years of age.

CS: That's right, yeah.

MK: So, you went to Kaua'i High School?

CS: Yes, Kaua'i High School.

MK: And graduated in 1933.

CS: 1933.

MK: I was wondering, when you went to Kaua'i High School, did you participate in say, student government or news writing or activities that you would later get involved?

CS: None. Absolutely none. I was just a---just getting by. . . . Twelve years old when I entered my frosh year. So, when I graduate I was only sixteen. The girls were older than me and my---of course, boys were all older than me. I had the unfortunate experience of skipping grades, they call it, in grammar school. So, I never got my elementary education in music, for instance. I missed out, you know, when I skipped that class, I miss all that. It has its advantages and disadvantages, I might say.

MK: I was, backing up a little bit, I notice you went to Hanamā'ulu School.

CS: Yes.

MK: There was a principal there, a Mrs. Carlotta Lai.

CS: Yes, oh yes.

MK: She was Black.

CS: She was, she was.

MK: And from the Mainland. I was wondering, did you think of her as being any different from the other teachers?

CS: Of course, by that time, I was out of Hanamā'ulu School. But you know, engaging her in various activities, school activities in downtown Hanamā'ulu, you know. I liked her. And she married Mr. [Yun Tim] Lai, who was the ace salesman, automobile [salesman] from Garden Isle Motors, Ford [Universal] Motor Company agency. And he was the ace salesman, talk nicely. Nice Chinese man, oh, anybody would love him. 'Cause I can't blame Carlotta Stewart, you know, from the Mainland, falling in love with Mr. Lai, you know. That was quite a time they had. They were both, very, very cohesive with the community. Good personality. Oh, she has one of the longest tenure as a principal at [1929-1944] Hanamā'ulu School. And I remember the research that your husband did on her.

MK: So, in terms of your youth, while you were going to high school, you concentrated on your studies and helped at home because your older brothers were gone. And you were active in

the Jodo sect, then?

CS: Well, our sect is called Jōdo Shin-shū. Our headquarters is on Pali Highway. And our sect is the largest Buddhist sect in Japan, in Hawai'i, and the Mainland. So, it's a sort of a popular sect and we kind of. . . . We'd like to think we're the most progressive and open-minded. Our patron saint is Saint Shinran. And he was the first minister to propose marriage, and he did against the higher officials. He did. And he proved a point.

MK: And so, you were active in church. We know that your mother kind of wanted you to become a minister.

CS: Yes, oh boy (laughs).

MK: How about your own aspirations or career plans?

CS: Well, I know for one thing, to become. . . . In our modern day setup, Hawai'i and mainland, the young AJAs [Americans of Japanese Ancestry], the new generations, I think they could do away with the principled necessity of learning and excelling in Japanese language, reading and writing. You need to graduate from a Japan university Ryūkoku, is the religious college and then get your training at the headquarters in Kyoto. But I feel a good student could suffice without going to Japan. We have at least two young ladies, like yourself, Miyoko [Michiko], who are ordained buddhist ministers. And we have no commune. So the trend now, is for young AJAs, the few of them who are involved now, in the program, to still have to go to Japan for training.

MK: How about yourself, though? When you were a young man, what did you plan on being or what did you hope to be?

CS: Well, I'm a little ashamed to admit that I was a Japanese-language school dropout in my eleventh year. I don't know for some reason, all my friends were dropping out, and I couldn't see myself as the only guy in the camp, you know. My peers [quit] going to Japanese school, so I quit. And of course, in order to become a Buddhist minister, you need to know the language, reading, writing, everything. So, at that time I had, I made no relationship between the language and becoming a minister. If you really wanted to become a minister—I guess these [schools] are really good—you could go to an American Christian college, and if you can graduate there and become a Christian minister, fine. But if you don't want to become a Christian minister, if you can direct your further education to Buddhism. So, you know, the way was open. But, I guess I failed to grasp the full impact of what could be done. Although, many times I thought about it, but not enough to pick up the pieces and go. I could not feel that. That's one of my biggest misgivings. Like they say, if you had your life to live over again. . . .

MK: Okay, I guess we can end the tape here.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

- JC: This is a continuation of the Chiyozo "Joe" Shiramizu tape. This is videotape number two.
- MK: This is tape number two with Mr. Shiramizu, and we're going to pick up with your employment history. Like you started at Līhu'e Plantation in 1933.
- CS: That's right, Yeah.
- MK: What was your job, that first job you had with the plantation?
- CS: My first job was, I guess you would call it the field hand in modern terminology, but actually what they wanted me for was to help the *luna*, the foreman. He was a big, tall, handsome, Filipino man. And his crew of nine, they were known as handymen. They did everything. Cut cane, *hāpai* and go load cane, fix tracks, drive a mule team, everything. And what they needed was for someone who could read and write. To keep time, so that they could get paid (chuckles). And so, here I come in from high school. And I'm saying, I don't want to work in the store. I was promised that job by Mr. Nobriga. In fact, he—afterwards he gave it to me because I didn't follow his instructions and he told me how much he regrets me changing over to the field. But the factory, the office, the stores, all those jobs might have been very inviting, at the time, for young people. But I didn't mind getting a little *lepo* in my fingernails and getting out in the field and getting up that much earlier in the morning and sharing lunches with the crew. And I thought it was fun. And I liked it because I really had something to do. I had to calculate. So I kind of loved it, and I loved the foreman. And the jobs were so varied, you know.
- DT: Well, did you feel closer to, what they might have then called management, than you did to the field hands? Or did you feel, did you empathize or sympathize with the workers?
- CS: Well, that's an interesting question, Dan. At the time, I didn't feel that I would be superior to anybody else, because after taking the time and doing my calculations, I would join in the gang and help the gang, whatever they were doing. Cutting cane, carry cane on my shoulder, I've done that. I've even served as water boy, you know, buckets, Chinese style. And speaking of management, well, the field superintendent at Hanamā'ulu had once told me, while I was still in school, he hoped I got myself a high school education and take over for my dad, 'cause my dad was so successful in the field contract. So, he says, "You should learn from your dad and then eventually we can get you a job overseeing the field operations." So, he had those kinds of ideas, but it never occurred to me that I would like that.
- DT: When they started to unionize, what happened? You didn't join the union, or you did?
- CS: Well, I did and did not because at that time, I was in the office. I was in industrial relations. In the past, it used to be called personnel and welfare. And I was very close to all the employees, supervisory, management, and the working force, the wage earners, you know. So, when the strike came, I felt my place was out there on the picket line, with the strikers. I felt myself as rank and file. Although at that time, we were working under a salaried schedule, so we were not supposed to strike. Because the union, at first, promised us that they would be negotiating for a contract, for our good. But after the strike, the union announced that they could not represent the salary group. So, we're not ILWU [International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union]. We are without a union. So, we go back to work without the union. So, we go back to work, to the office, at the mercy of management.

Fortunately, management wasn't as bad as we had all thought. They were quite fair, so we were very appreciative of that. But that's a part of the ILWU that sometimes when we talked about it, we say, we certainly put our jobs on the line, but the strike itself is some experience. And you'll never know until your entire family finances is threatened. You take out your war bonds and whatever bank account you have. And the credit union movement had just about gotten started, in its infancy. So, there wasn't too much security left.

DT: So, the first time around, you actually went out on strike?

CS: Oh yes, oh yes.

DT: Yeah, the first time around. This is, what, '46?

CS: [Nineteen] forty-six, '46.

DT: The first time was '46. Nothing before '46?

CS: Nothing before, no, no, no.

DT: They were just organizing, I guess, before that. And you actually went out, but after you suffered through all these weeks, and you didn't really profit from it except indirectly. And after that, you felt you no longer felt that you were obliged to strike. So, you didn't pay dues to the union any longer?

CS: That's right. I never did pay a nickel. Never did get the union card.

DT: So, you, in essence, became a part of the administrative or management team? So, that's how you got to---sort of head up the industrial relations department? Is that right? How you got---well this I guess, was even before the [19]40s, but by '52 you were editing. What was this, a newsletter for the employees?

CS: Yes, it's an in-house publication. We simply chose *Līhu'e Plantation News*. I was editor and I wrote 99 percent of the thing, you know. Some of the things we used were canned material, and sometimes my boss would write a few words. And then I used a whole slew of, a whole bunch of reporters from various departments, the store, the factory, the automotive shop. So, we did all that and put, I had to put that paper together, including the photographs. And by golly, it paid off for me at least. It won several major awards. But what it did, really, was to fulfill a need. The plantation realized that there was a need for pure communication, you know, from the lips of management, to the rank and file out there, the employees. And that was the official medium.

DT: Yeah, but at this time you must have become very interested in community affairs . . .

CS: Oh yes, oh yes . . .

DT: . . . what's happening in the community, and probably some of that found its way into your newspaper. Right?

CS: I think between the HSPA [Hawai'i Sugar Planters' Association] and the Big Five, so-called

agencies, they realized that the strike, one of the lessons learned from the strike, there was, in fact, an insufficiency of communications between management's policies and principles, as related to the employees. They realized that---that is how sports in Hawai'i. . . . The sugar plantations were the pioneers in organization. They organized plantation clubs, athletic clubs. They provided everything. We paid a small due for membership. But they provided bats and balls and basketball. Boxing, in all its glorious history, occurred during that time when the plantation would sponsor, supervise, and promote and pay for the boxing program. This is all an aftermath of the strike, to bring employees and management closer. And that was the philosophy of the industry. And I think it worked very, very well. Even to this day, we don't have any animosity against management or the industry. Certainly we don't write letters to the people about our cane fires. We're not against the pollution of the air just because we burn off our sugarcane field. 'Cause the effect is the economy of so many hundreds of employees and their families.

DT: But somewhere along the line there, you became a Republican.

CS: Oh.

DT: How did that happen? Lest we forget that. Let's talk a little bit about politics here.

CS: (Laughs) You mustn't forget that. Well, (laughs) I don't know then. . . . If I had to live it over again, I think I'd still do the same darn things. I can go back to, shee, '35, '36, as a young man, now, myself and an old pal of mine, a very famous character here, (Matsuo) "Sidelines" Kuraoka. He's passed on, now. He's a little bit gossip columnist, photographer, and. . . .

DT: Supporter of [Republican] Hiram Fong [territorial house, 1938-53: U.S. Senate, 1959-76], too.

CS: Oh yes, very big supporter of Hiram Fong. And those days we didn't say we were Republicans or Democrats. The Democrats had not emerged as the successor to the Republican party.

DT: Really, only . . .

CS: Yeah, yeah, the unions and the AJA vets, they started the new Democrat party. So, those days, the Republican predominance was there. And nobody talked about Democrats, everybody was Republican. Well, the leading Hanamā'ulu merchant, Portuguese man, Manuel S. Carvalho. He came out of the plantation camps, and he went into his private, general merchandise business, in Kapaia, the little town half mile before you get to Hanamā'ulu. He operated a successful, general merchandise store [Carvalho Store]. In competition with some of the Japanese merchants and the J. B. Fernandes family store in Kapaia [Kapaia Store]. So, you know, he was in for real tough competition. He, again, he loves his Hanamā'ulu people. So, he provided---he was the first man to ever provide us with bats and balls and gloves for baseball, junior baseball. And he was the only one in Hanamā'ulu that could think of us in that manner, you know. Returning some of the money that he has made from our parents in his business, and give it back to the kids. And we just adored him. But, he ran for office as a Republican. So, my friend, "Sidelines" and I, as young as we were, we would go house to house urging everybody, please on election day, to consider Manuel S. Carvalho for County

[of Kaua'i, Board of] Supervisor[s], see. So, that was my original introduction into politics.

DT: You two young fellows went out doing a practical house-to-house campaign . . .

CS: Grass . . .

DT: Saying grassroots.

CS: Grassroots, yeah.

DT: And no Democratic party, so that would be a Republican.

CS: Yeah, that's right, you know. It was---but it wasn't a sink, you see, Dan, because for seven seats there'd be about eighteen Republicans running. So it was not a duck soup sort of thing.

DT: Oh, you had a lot of people running.

CS: Yeah, you had to work, you had to work.

DT: So, it stuck. You stayed a Republican then, the rest of your life?

CS: Yeah, well, then the next campaign somebody else asks Sidelines and myself to help. Oh, that was [territorial] Senator Elsie Wilcox. Yeah, now, she's a fan of the community, you know. She's a---when it comes to her achievements, her actions in the missionary field, I mean, nobody is better than the Wilcoxes. At least, not on this island anyway. On this island---and you know personally some of the high school students that she supported through their high school years. And so, she is popular again. And she advocates education and health. We like the principals, and they ask us if we would repeat what we did for Carvalho. And then we helped to put her across. Very proud of that.

DT: So, it was a combination of liking certain individuals and baseball? Something of a bridge. It's interesting how often baseball and athletics were related to political ties.

CS: Yeah, I think we have an advantage there. We don't have the four seasons as you have on the Mainland, Dan, you see. So, we don't have a winter. It's like in Hilo, it rains so much, the reigning sport, the most popular sport is basketball. So, most of the best basketball players came from Hilo, 'cause they spent so much time indoors. But here on Kaua'i you have a little bit of this, little bit of that. It's well-balanced.

DT: Yeah well, each of the islands, however, even on the Big Island, but particularly I think on O'ahu, to a degree on Maui and here on Kaua'i baseball seemed to figure in. I know Steere Noda on O'ahu.

CS: Oh yes.

DT: And you probably remember him pretty well. Great advocate of the Asahis [AJA baseball team founded by Steere Noda].

CS: Asahis' thing, yeah, yeah.

DT: But, Sidelines, I didn't know Sidelines had been. . . . You played baseball together?

CS: No, he never played baseball.

DT: Then went campaigning together?

CS: Yeah, we went. . . . He played a little football, but never baseball.

DT: Oh, he did.

CS: Yeah, yeah, never baseball.

DT: I thought that he had, since you said he. . . . Since the person you campaigned for had supplied the balls and bats. But Sidelines was a little bit of an egghead, as we might call him in those days. Right? When he was a student he liked to write.

CS: Yeah, yeah.

DT: Put words together and push people, hype, as we might say today.

CS: He didn't enter the employ of *Garden Island* [Kaua'i newspaper] you know, Charlie Fern [editor of *Garden Island*]. I was in the [employment of] Charlie Fern before Sidelines ever was.

DT: Oh, really.

CS: Oh yeah, I used to write sports. We used to get paid ten cents a column inch. That's all we got paid. And I lived under that for a long, long time and one day he said, "You're the new sports editor."

And I said, "You know, the reason why we are not getting the news is that nobody wants to write for ten cents an inch. An example, you spend a whole afternoon at the ballpark, watching the game, keeping score, taking notes, and you go home and write it. The next morning you deliver it to the newspaper office. And then if the sports page is crowded, they give your story about two-and-a-half inches. So, that means your pay for the afternoon's work. . . .

DT: Twenty cents instead of a dollar and a half [\$1.50].

CS: Yeah, yeah, thirty cents at best, you know. So, I threatened him, I told him I would go on strike if he didn't do something about it. So, we wind up with twenty-five cents an inch. And then we evolved a system of assignments. If the sports activity was a major one, five dollars guarantee, for the story. Long, short, or whatever. If it was over that five-dollars worth at two bits [twenty-five cents] an inch, we gave 'em a higher figure. We had to be considerate, we had to retain those sports writers. They don't come easy, you know. 'Cause we have no way of training them, nobody to teach them how to write. Much less me. . . .

DT: You were doing this on the side then?

CS: Yes, on the side.

DT: Sort of moonlighting as we would say today.

CS: Moonlighting is right. On the plantation pay just isn't enough for a struggling young man with a wife and kids.

DT: It must have been an education itself to work with Charlie Fern.

CS: Oh yes it was. But it was a pleasure, Dan, it was a pleasure.

DT: Really, you liked it?

CS: Oh, I think the world of Charlie. I mean, you know, his heart, his heart. He's really something.

DT: Yeah, well, he did a lot of innovative things.

CS: Oh yes. I think he's responsible for influencing a lot of young people's minds and ways. I really think so. Of course, he's still living you know.

DT: I guess so.

CS: Oh yes he is, yes he is.

DT: I know he moved in Arcadia, over to Honolulu, and I don't know whether. . . . Is his wife still living?

CS: His wife passed away.

DT: She passed away, right. Is Sidelines Kuraoka's wife still living?

CS: Yes, she is, yes. Yeah, she's a retired teacher.

DT: Oh, tell me something about Charlie Fern, now.

CS: I can't place the exact year, so, I'd say at least seven, eight years ago, we promoted a dinner banquet for all former football players, football officials, football coaches, and I called it, football writers, and got them all together. And we went to Wailua, Kaua'i Aston [hotel], and we invited Charlie Fern. He was one of two special honorees. By golly, Charlie Fern came over. And after all the kudos, after all the eulogies about what he had done and his contribution to Kaua'i and sports and the spirit and minds of young people. We asked him to come up to the microphone and say a few words. And he said, he has been the recipient of many, many awards. He has been honored with banquets such as this, people, friends. He says, "I have been the recipient of many, many awards." And he said simply, "This one is the best yet." And he sat down. That's all he said. That's Charlie Fern. And he's never lost that magic that he had with us.

DT: Yeah, it's strange because you would think the community. . . . He was biased in his own

way.

CS: Well, yeah, yeah, yeah, being editor, publisher, yeah . . .

DT: . . . And a Republican, I guess we could say. But, somehow, Democrats always seemed to like him and get along with him. Right?

CS: I think because of his . . .

DT: Coexist with him and speak highly of him. You attribute this mostly to his personality, is that it?

CS: That's what I would judge. I don't know his Mainland background. 'Course he flew the first airplane from O'ahu to Kaua'i (laughs). He's very famous on that.

MK: So, you were like a moonlighting contributor to the *Garden [Island] Isle*?

CS: Yes.

MK: And you were also editor of the *Lihu'e Plantation News* from '52 to '68, you know. And I was wondering, the *Lihu'e Plantation News* was a plantation newspaper put out by the management, yeah?

CS: Well, oh, of course, yeah. The views expressed were those of Lihu'e Plantation, yeah.

MK: So, what was the focus of the paper?

CS: Well, as long as I had something to do with it, I insisted it was aimed for improvement of community relationship, employee relationship. And I never forgot that. Everything was pointed to the relationship. Good or bad, now. You couldn't take sides, really.

MK: Was there any political things being put in the paper?

CS: No, no, no, no.

MK: So, when election time came by?

CS: We just announce who was running. Fortunately for me, when I ran [for Kaua'i Board of Supervisors in 1958], I was still editor, so I could add on one more extra line, you see.

(Laughter)

DT: In other words, you might urge people to get out and vote.

CS: Oh yes, yeah, yeah.

DT: Somehow, somebody's name got whispered . . .

CS: You stick to the principles but . . .

- MK: Were there like endorsements or anything that they gave?
- CS: No, no, no. We did not. I didn't feel that we should try to politicize the paper itself. This being employee and management communication media. I tried to keep it that way, but . . .
- DT: It has changed a lot.
- CS: Oh yeah.
- DT: After you became editor [1952-68], shortly after the election of '54 came on, so you begin to have to give attention to both priorities.
- CS: That's right, that's right.
- DT: You couldn't exactly slant things from a company point of view, because the company was still interested in primarily making money, right?
- CS: The leadership, you must remember, was mainly Democrats. As long as you belong to the ILWU, you know, you were a Democrat. But I had one really good point with the paper. Although it was primarily for employees, I could feature community events, community people, businessmen, and I had a regular feature. I tried to get four of our private businesses, proprietors and managers and employees, and make a little profile and a picture of them. I had the advantage of being my own photographer, you see. So, I could balance out things. But that worked real well and a lot of people thought it was a very important part of the paper, expose our employees.
- DT: Did you participate in Republican politics other than maybe campaigning for individuals from time to time?
- CS: Oh yes, I served as an officer and . . .
- DT: Party, precinct, officer conventions or what?
- CS: Yes.
- DT: Go to state Republican conventions?
- CS: When the state convention comes to Kaua'i, oh, at various times I was resolution chairman. And I had some experience in directing and pushing the action. 'Cause in politics, one guy could stymie the whole convention. And if you don't watch it, hook 'em on parliamentary law violation or something. You gotta keep the thing moving because people are in from the outside islands, your time is limited, and then your issues, they never end, Dan. You could have 1001 issues. But then you have to narrow it down to ten or twelve. It was a rough job, but after a while you learn and somehow you get the feel of it.
- DT: Well, you were---I think you were an official of the state convention in '64, it was held over here. Republican convention. . . .
- CS: [Nineteen] sixty-four.

DT: Well, the [Barry] Goldwater convention. . . . And I've forgotten. I'm not sure [Republican territorial senator] Ben [Benjamin] Dillingham [II] was running, but I know [Richard] "Ike" Sutton was running for something. They had the convention over here.

CS: (Laughs) Does he ever quit?

DT: No, Ike Sutton is still running.

CS: Oh, yes, yeah yeah. I don't mean that as a dirty pun. I like Ike.

DT: Well, other than being around conventions, it begins to get serious about politics, I guess, until maybe '59 or '60, when you ran for the council or something? [CS served on the Kaua'i Board of Supervisors, 1959-68 and on the Kaua'i County Council 1969-72.]

CS: Yeah, I lost the last one. Well, I say the last one because that was the end of me. See, I don't know, fortune perhaps, or us Buddhists call it karma. It was my time, see. You know, I served for fourteen years, I won seven consecutive campaigns. So, I served for fourteen years, and my last day in office was January the 1st, 1973. Okay, and the general election was November of 1972. And I lost first time in eight tries, I lost, all right. So, January 1st I'm out of office, January 28th I'm working at my job at the Hanamā'ulu [Central Service & Repairs] automotive shop, and I get myself a mild heart attack. Just about noontime. And you know, I go home for lunch, I get forty-five minutes, the others get half an hour but I *cockroach* fifteen minutes. And I come back to work, even with the drowsy feeling, and I stayed the afternoon. And my co-worker tells me, "I think I should take you to the hospital. Or drive you to the hospital at least."

"No." I insisted. I drove after 3:30 P.M.

Then they tell me, "You have just had a heart attack. And if you don't watch out it's gonna be even worse."

That was my last day of work. Doctor said, "Tomorrow morning, you're in the hospital."

DT: So, I guess the timing was perfect. You got out of office and take some time to recuperate.

CS: Yeah, what I didn't want was people to think that because of my defeat, you know, I lost spirit and got sick. Because that wasn't it at all.

DT: No, there was no way of knowing you were going to have a heart attack.

CS: It was just coming. . . . Yeah, yeah, oh yeah yeah.

DT: No way of mentally controlling a heart attack. So, I don't think you had anything to worry about. Let's change tapes and we'll pick it up.

CS: Yeah, yeah, okay.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 17-107-1-91; SIDE ONE

JC: This is a continuation of the Chiyozo "Joe" Shiramizu interview, which took place on May 15, 1991. This is videotape number three, and this is the last tape.

MK: Okay, this is tape number three with Mr. Shiramizu. And we noticed that in your career, you were on the Kaua'i [County] Council from January 1959 through 1972.

CS: That's correct.

MK: And tell us what were the issues you were interested in, in working on, during those seven terms?

CS: Well, I can tell you in one opening line—sentence—that it never was as intriguing as it is today. I don't know why, it's the same world, the economic principles the same, the social principles the same, everything is practically the same except you have additional things like the new superstructures and well, the advent of sewer systems, which is a must. So, I agree there are more things now, but I think it was more interesting in the past. I particularly want to point attention to the bus problems. Public, not public, but the county-sponsored bus systems, and this is where my old hometown family value related philosophy comes in. I was never against public monies for bus transportation, at least, to service our Catholic schools. I did not think it was a violation. They're human, they pay taxes, and the fact that the Catholics sponsored their own schools, developed their own education system, I figure it's the savings for the government. I really think so. And as a Republican, you know, I've been taught to honor the individual enterprise. Government is too much bureaucracy, welfare agencies, too much. Everything for everybody, you know, too much of that. It takes away the initiative of the individual, as a citizen. And they all seeking the improvement and betterment of our lives. I don't consider that as something that you toy about in the floor of Congress or legislature or even in our little county building operation. I think that's part and parcel of Kaua'i and Hawai'i and why not America. I differ with most people on that. There's a lot of people that say [there should be] separation of church and government. But then I think our load, all of us, our individual load is lightened by that much with the advent and use, the widespread usage, of free enterprise in the picture. I really think so. I don't know if that's true Republicanism or not, Dan, you could tell me more about that than anybody else I know, but I don't know, to me, it's pure and simple. We talk about the welfare and the concern for our peers and those ahead of us, those behind us. Well, I think that's the way to go. So, if a bus program become a controversy, then I know clearly where I stand. And I've taken a few lumps from certain individuals during that period. But I was always back of it. So, they used to say there was a strange alliance, and if I may use, Dan, some of the old-time politicians [Kaua'i County Council members] that I served with, Louis Gonsalves, [Jr.] of Kapa'a and Souza—what was his first name? I've forgotten. Bill, Ernest, or Geeves—gosh, I've forgotten. But Raymond Souza, excuse me, Raymond Souza, Raymond is a graduate of Santa Clara University and he was there. He did tell me, "Eh, Joe, our Catholic friends depend on you for a solid vote, the bus issue."

I said, "Tell them don't worry. I'm with them." Not because they're Catholics. The Catholic bus request could have been Buddhist or Episcopalian or Mormon and my feelings would still be unchanged. But see, there's Tony [Anthony] Baptiste, [Jr.] Tony Baptiste, he's Catholic.

Louis Gonsalves is Catholic. Raymond Souza is Catholic. And here is Joe Shiramizu, the fourth vote, he's a Buddhist. So, everybody thought he was funny. They would tease me about that sometimes. And I said, "No, no, no, no don't worry." I can be a Catholic tomorrow because I have so many friends. If I thought of becoming a Catholic just for political advantage, course I would never do that. Someone actually suggested that to me. But I grew up with the Catholic population in Hanamā'ulu. All the officers of Immaculate Conception [Church] and Saint Catherine's are all good friends of mine, from way back. Because of the environment in which you grew up, plantation and some outside. But that was a very important part of my early beginnings because you learn what your constituents are really concerned about. And bus transportation, mind you, I think the whole Hawai'i state poked fun at Kaua'i county those days. Big separation, church and government.

MK: You mentioned Tony Baptiste. Maybe we can find out what you thought about the different mayors you served under. You've had Tony Baptiste [1951-60], Raymond Aki [1961-64], Hartwell Blake [1965-66], and Antone ["Kona"] Vidinha [Jr., 1967-72]. What are your impressions of these men?

CS: That's a big order (chuckles). Well, start with Tony Baptiste. He's very colorful, he's got a good business mind, you know. His last business endeavor was private automobile rental, yeah rent-a-car.

DT: Rent-a-car.

CS: Before that he was in bus transportation. He was also connected with the pineapple industry, but as long as I've known him he's very *akamai*. He has a very definite set of rules, oh, hardly anybody's gonna budge him. And his activities, local activities, very popular with the union. They are avowed unionists. The union cannot go wrong. And of course, that's a mistaken attitude. Sometimes the union is wrong, you know. Regretfully, they do sometimes boo-boo. And we're fortunate that there's not too many of those errors. But they do. And Tony was a stickler for them. And this is why, when he was released from prison—you remember?

DT: Yeah, I was going to ask you, didn't he have some trouble with the IRS [Internal Revenue Service]?

CS: Yeah, IRS. And so the talk goes around, if he can be county chairman and executive officer, why isn't he paying his taxes? And there again, now, the basic principle was his. . . . What it is today, up here, way up here, but you gotta go back to your basic principles in order to say what kind of man he is, see. And there again, he has homespun family values, good family man. And he remarried, you know. And I'd forgotten now, if he has one or two children. His wife is very active now, and going about very successfully in her business. And his offsprings did real well and he was a good administrator. He was on top of things. You could never get him away. He'd know every small detail.

MK: What about Raymond Aki?

CS: Raymond, I think, served before his time. The things he had proposed were solid, solid. You could see it and yet you couldn't. You know what I mean? The idea is there, you know that someday, one day, it's gonna come to fruition. Like infrastructure, saving monies for

purposes like acquiring land. Now is the time to buy land. In fact, he's really good. He was with A & B [Alexander & Baldwin] as one of the land executives. I'm sure it was A & B. But he was one of the top executives. And his futuristic ideas all pointed to what we are experiencing now. Like getting from the Mainland, capital. And the people to come to Kaua'i, establish retirement residences. Whole areas, maybe 3,000, 5,000 acres [acres] retirement homes. The related businesses and facilities, schools. In that area presently, behind the new school in Hanamā'ulu. Yeah? He mentioned all that area to me and I told him, "That's where my dad made all his money with the cane crop. That's good agricultural land, prime. You get more sugar per ton, from that section, than you do any other place on the plantation."

But he says, "No, we can spare some sugar land."

And of course, that's been proven so many times. They took sugar lands, prime sugar lands for the airport. Grove Farm Company [Inc.] developed the Kukui [Grove Center] shopping center and the residential area. All that will be in business or residential. So, we lose 25,000 acres of sugar lands again. So, of course, I won't dwell on the fate of sugar. Hopefully, it's getting better and better each day and hopefully it continues.

MK: What about Hartwell Blake?

CS: Hartwell Blake. Hartwell is a good administrator. I think his education was business administration. But, being part-Hawaiian has served Hartwell very good. Hawaiiana, so his special concerns were conservatism [conservation]. You know, keeping our *heiaus*—not tampering with *heiaus*, you know. And everything of interest that could be related to some Hawaiian history, he was on it right away. So, he's a resource, really, in Hawaiian history and Hawaiiana. And a good administrator. His military experience, probably puts him in good stead. We always likened ourselves to his soldiers. General Hartwell, "captain" sometimes we call. But he was of good humor, and his manners—I don't think I'll ever find a person with such good manners as Hartwell. Everything is spic-and-span. Really, he was the top.

MK: And I guess the last person you served under was . . .

CS: Oh, yes, "Kona." Antone "Kona" [Vidinha]. Kona was a disciplinarian. Early off—but you have to understand him. And he has all that experience, though. Wealth of experience in police work. So, again, you know he tends to details. And towards the end, after his first stint, he'd kind of lose it to his administrative assistant. But, in the beginning, he was on top of everything. You couldn't pick up your pencil without him noticing it. But that's the nature of his career being a police, I think he was vice assistant chief. He went up as far as assistant chief. And he's a good businessman. He acquired lands in the Po'ipū, Kōloa area. He's a millionaire, maybe two times over. And as it turned out, he and Edene, his wife, they donated, I would say upwards of \$2 million to the county. And this is one of the reasons why our athletic facility in Līhu'e is called Vidinha Stadium. But, his contribution really, not only in dollars and cents, and his police work is really commendable. There's nothing you can say against him when he was police captain. He was strict and very efficient. And he brought all that into his job as mayor.

But then, administrating the general county work, the big headaches are like public works department. It's so widespread and varied, it's impossible for one man to really stay on top of

it and do a good job. And this is why you have so many public works officials, from the county engineer to his assistants. That thing spreads around like a disease. The problems, roads, lights, everything, sewers now.

But, all four [mayors], I think came prepared. They used to accuse Kona of being a little behind maybe in parliamentary law. But, you know, that's not the only attribute a mayor must have. As long as he has that feeling and caring for his constituents, the rest of us on Kaua'i, the concern of Kaua'i's welfare. To me that's the most important thing. But they all did well, they all did well. I enjoyed all of them. I guess they had some sympathy for me being the lonely Republican, you know (chuckles). So it was a great experience.

DT: I don't know, sort of looking back for a while, you're Republican, they're Republican since '85, which adds up to fifty-plus years. Fifty-five years or so. But since 1954, Hawai'i has been almost consistently capital *D*, Democrat.

CS: Yeah.

DT: How do you appraise the Democrats and what do you think in terms of the future of the Republican party? Does it have one?

CS: (Laughs) The future of the Republican party. . . . On this island, my friend, Fern Orlik, is the new chairman for Kaua'i County. I've served with her on our county legislative team, you know, that we send to the legislators here. We're called the kooky gang. Fern is a good member. Of course, she had to remove herself from the committee, after having been selected as chairman of the Kaua'i Republican party. So, her husband [Robert] replaces her. But I often kid her about the new Republican party, the makeup. If you don't mind my saying so, in the nice intent of the word *Haole*, but the *Haoles* we have here, by and large, all prosperous people. Many of them retirees, buying property, building, jacking up our (laughs) land prices, like the Japanese. And that society, the California type of Republicanism, I think is going to be very evident from the way, at least, that they've shown me, the way they live, their actions, their social life. And when I tease them, that's all we need on Kaua'i County [Council], a bunch of you California *Haoles* establishing Kaua'i as Santa Barbara West. And, of course, that draws a laugh, a chuckle. But I tell them, "I'm serious." I said, "It's hard for a local kid to absorb that. He can learn, and probably get to like it after a while. But right now, at the moment, you tell me if the Republican party is attractive. I say no. They haven't improved one bit."

DT: I think it's a problem, because newer people come in, come here from the Mainland don't take the time to really get acquainted with the people who are here. They're too impatient or they want things done their way. Or they want to issue orders or that sort of thing. So, it makes it difficult for the Republican party here, I think. And it's probably true throughout the state. Talking a little bit earlier today about the Republican party, perhaps you have had better chances to recover as a party on the neighbor islands or that you have on O'ahu. And O'ahu Republicans seem to have great difficulty in adjusting to modern-day party. What about the Democrats? Do you think they've been doing a reasonably good job since they took over?

CS: Well, the few times I engaged in serious discussion with some of my Democrat pals, it's like a good father trying to raise a bunch of sons and some of them turned bad. Can you say that father didn't do a good job bringing up the family? He can do the best job in the world, the

most that he can be expected to do. But a son can still be completely independent of his father and turn bad. I'm referring to Governor John Waihee. The governor can be the nicest guy in Hawai'i *nei* but some of his appointed commissions, commissioners, every island, I mean it's not news. They've done what they've done. Some of it was very, very bad and it certainly destroys the confidence of people in the democratic process. People take advantage of their position. And then, you know, because it's now he says it's only Democrats doing that. And this is the thing that, well some of us Republicans anyway, we feel the Democrats have failed there.

DT: In other words, they haven't been able to find the people to implement their . . .

CS: The governor's programs and everything.

DT: They've done some things that are good.

CS: Some good, oh of course, of course.

DT: But they haven't been able. . . . But if the Republicans were suddenly to get in power, you'd be faced with the same problem wouldn't you?

CS: That's true, that's true.

DT: Trying to find people to make good on your promises.

CS: And speaking of images, Dan, I dare say that if you accosted ten young people, the ages of your illustrious team members here. If you ask ten of them what they thought of the Republican party, they would say, "Waste of time." They would rather be Democrats. Nine out of ten would say that, because it's the image that has been projected that we Republicans have been subjected to all these years since the big emergence of the Democrat party.

DT: But the day may come, so don't give up hope. The day may come and the people say, "We want a change." And if they change from Democrats, it'll have to be something at least similar to capital *R*, or, Republican. Won't it?

CS: I find great solace talking to my Democrat pals. How our exchange can be really personal, I mean, meaningful, we not just talking, we mean what we say. And I tell them, "As long as the Democrat party will be in the majority, for so many more years to come, Hawai'i state will be the highest taxed. Our citizens with the highest taxed people in the United States. And they shall pay the highest prices for produce and products and oil and lumber. And the cost of living will also be the highest in these fifty United States. Everything, education is still so low we don't dare talk about it. I give them all the ills, the failings. So, I say, "You take the legislature, you take the counties, be the majority, run 'em both. Congress, you can have that, too. Take the [U.S] House, take the [U.S.] Senate. But the presidency leave it to us Republicans."

(Laughter)

DT: Sounds like you have your platform all figured out for the next time around.

CS: Oh yes, oh yes.

DT: It's been a pleasure talking with you this afternoon. Michiko, do you have anything more?

MK: That's it.

CS: Oh, gee, Dan and Miyoko [Michiko], I've enjoyed it.

MK: Thank you.

CS: What happened to my stage fright?

DT: Didn't see any.

MK: Never appeared.

CS: Didn't see it. Well, I came prepared to (laughs) swoon and pass out and everything.

DT: You did a nice job, and we thank you very much.

MK: You did very well.

CS: Thank you.

MK: Thank you Mr. Shiramizu.

CS: Oh no, call me Joe.

MK: Okay, Joe, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

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